



Jeff Sessions
UNITED STATES SENATOR • ALABAMA

FAX

TO:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

OFFICE:

Customs & Border Protection

FAX NO:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

FROM:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

PHONE:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

DATE:

2-4-10

PAGES (including this cover sheet):

5

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0104

February 4, 2010

Mr. L. Seth Statler
Assistant Commissioner
Office of Congressional Affairs
1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20229

Dear Mr. Statler:

I am enclosing a letter that I received from (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) regarding his stepson, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) who is a Border Patrol Agent. I would appreciate it if you would review Mr. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) concerns and respond directly to him, copying my office with your response. Thank you for your assistance.

Constituent:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Office of Senator Jeff Sessions
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(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Jeff Sessions
United States Senator

JS: st

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January 16, 2010

Senator Jeff Sessions
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Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Richard Shelby
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative Jo Bonner
11 N. Water Street, Suite 15290
Mobile, Alabama 36602

Dear Sirs:

I am writing on the behalf of (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) U.S. Border Patrol Agent, who is currently serving in Del Rio, Texas.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) was born in Mobile, Alabama, on September 13, 1974. He is the son of my wife, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and the late (b) (6), (b) (7)(C). His father served our country in the U.S. Coast Guard and was a Sergeant in the Mobile County Sheriff's office for many years before his untimely death in 1995 due to a heart attack. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) graduated from Baker High School in 1993, Faulkner State Community College in 1996 and the University of South Alabama in 2001, with a B.S. in Secondary Education.

After graduation from the University of South Alabama, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) desire was to become a teacher and coach, having played basketball at Baker and Faulkner. However, due to the fact that Mobile County was not hiring teachers at the time he graduated, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) went to work for the CINTAS Corporation in 2001 as a route salesman/driver and worked in the Mobile office until September, 2008, when he was accepted in the U.S. Border Patrol. During the time he worked for CINTAS, he was the top route salesman/driver in the three state region and earned a trip to CINTAS headquarters in Cincinnati, OH, to receive an award in recognition of this accomplishment.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) is the father of two wonderful sons, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) who is now 6 years old, and (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) who is 3 years old. Anyone who knows (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) will tell you that he is a wonderful father to these two boys and that they really love their daddy. Herein lies the reason that I am writing this letter to all of you, as I will explain shortly.

Due to the economic situation with CINTAS in 2008 and (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) desire to serve in some kind of law enforcement as his father did, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) submitted an application to the U.S. Border Patrol in the summer of 2008 and he was accepted into the training program and was sworn in on September 11, 2008. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) spent eight weeks in training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Artesia, New Mexico, and graduated on December 11, 2008. After graduation, he spent another eight weeks in Artesia learning Spanish before reporting to Del Rio, Texas, in February, 2009.

Page 1 of 3

He is well liked by all of his co-workers and superiors in Del Rio and has been a part of apprehending many illegal aliens crossing the border there.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) goal in the Border Patrol was to serve his probationary period in Del Rio and eventually transfer back to the local Border Patrol office here in Mobile. He has been in contact with them many times, even meeting with them before he left Mobile to attend training. It was and still is the desire of the local office to eventually have (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) transfer back here to work for them. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) is quite an imposing officer in uniform, standing 6 foot 8 inches tall and weighing 250 pounds.

After (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) entered the Border Patrol, he and his wife began to have troubles and they eventually divorced in August, 2009. Because of this, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) has been separated from his two boys for almost the entire time he first reported to duty. He has seen them for only a few days at a time on a few occasions as his wife remained in Mobile with the children during this entire time. He has spent a lot of money traveling back and forth to visit with his children as often as he can afford, but this has been limited by his available leave time from the Border Patrol.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) had done all of this in anticipation that he would soon be able to apply for a transfer back to Mobile and be able to spend more time with his two young sons. The policy in place up until this time is that he had to wait until he had completed eighteen (18) months of service to apply for a transfer. He will have completed his eighteen months of service in March and the local office was also looking forward to having him here and helping him with the transfer. The problem they have here in Mobile is that no agents want to come to Mobile because the duty here is much different than serving on the border and even though they have vacancies here every year, they remain without a full complement of officers.

Recently (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) called and informed us that he had just learned that, due to budget constraints in Washington that have been placed on the Border Patrol and other agencies like them, the transfer policy previously in effect has been canceled. Effective immediately, he was told, no agents will be allowed to transfer from their current duty station until further notice. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) was looking forward to transferring to Mobile and being closer to his two boys and remaining in service to his country. He really loves his job and talks about how much he enjoys the work he does in the Border Patrol, but he also misses his children very much and doesn't want them to grow up without the presence of a father in their life.

Here is where I think that all of you can help in this situation. I can understand that there may be budget constraints that caused this new policy. I can understand how Washington would want to save the many thousands of dollars it costs every time a Border Patrol Agent transfers to a new duty station. However, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) has stated that he would be willing to transfer at his own expense, with no cost to our government, just to be close to his children. He told me that this doesn't matter to anyone because the policy that has now been established is "No transfers, period." This really doesn't make common sense to me or to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and all the other family members involved.

What makes common sense to us is that it would cost the U.S. Government zero dollars to allow him to transfer to Mobile at his own expense and reunite him with the children he loves so much and wants to be near.

My hope and the family's hope is that all of you can help us find a way to change this policy and allow for transfers if the agent pays his own way. This would keep a very good Border Patrol Agent on the job and also allow him to be near his children, which preserves some of the family values we all talk about every day. There isn't much common sense in Washington these days, but we feel this is nothing but common sense.

In closing, I would like to let you know that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) has not asked me to write this letter and does not know about it. In fact, he would tell you that he does not want any special treatment nor does he want his superiors to think that he is seeking any special treatment. I hope that there is something that you can do to help in this matter and your efforts will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)